

# My colourful garden room cost next to nothing

Leanne Baud pulled together a stylish look with second-hand steals, upcycled pieces and by rediscovering items she already owned

Leanne Baud was instantly smitten when she walked into the sunroom of this extended 1930s house. With windows on three sides and an overhanging roof to create a veranda, Leanne loved its summery vibe. 'The veranda reminded me of my mum's former home in Spain,' recalls Leanne, who lives here with her husband, Ash, their daughter, Esmé, one, and Leanne's sons, Oliver, 14, and Mason, 12. 'I could see us throwing open the doors, having the barbecue going and the sunroom becoming a lovely indoor-outdoor party space.'

**STEP ONE** The sunroom was crying out for a makeover as everything in it was brown, but the rest of the house needed decorating first. Initially, Leanne thought she'd make do by putting in a sofa, armchair and small dining table she'd had in her little two-bedroom cottage. 'The comfortably worn leather sofa and armchair looked right for the relaxed nature of the room where the boys play computer games and we entertain friends,' she says. 'But the tiny table looked completely out of proportion! I bought a long wooden table with a matching bench because, although I didn't know how I'd decorate the room at first, I knew wood would go with everything.'



Before

The 10-seater pine table was the ideal investment piece for Leanne and Ash who love entertaining family and friends. The painted legs happen to be a good match for the walls, which are painted in Farrow & Ball's Down Pipe. Leanne's upcycled two of the charity shop chairs in the same colour and waxed the third.



The light-filled sunroom is a great spot to sit and enjoy the garden throughout the year. Leanne painted the decking grey and the underside of the veranda white



The piano was a free find from Facebook Marketplace, which Leanne upcycled in Farrow & Ball's Yellowcote. Leftover from painting Esmé's wardrobe, she paid 25p for the vintage sheet music in a charity shop and framed it

Leanne arranged a collection of artworks by balancing the frame colours with touches of yellow on each side. The butterfly is Leanne's first attempt at ethical taxidermy, after being inspired by a follower on Instagram. She made the 'Eat Your Greens' print and the guinea fowl picture is a framed greetings card

**Good idea!**

DARK INTERIORS CAN LOOK SOMBER WITHOUT A LIFT OF COLOUR, SO ADD A BRIGHT ACCENT, AS LEANNE HAS.

**TOTAL COST**  
£1,380



**STEP TWO** A few years passed with the existing décor but then Leanne gave birth to Esmé and went on maternity leave from her job as an emergency medical technician for the ambulance service. She decided it was time to transform the dull décor. 'The brown was awful and everywhere - PVC window frames, window ledges, door frames, floor - and our leather sofa and armchair didn't help,' she says. 'I particularly hated the brown window frames, so I painted them dark grey like the kitchen.'

Leanne, a keen Instagrammer (@paint\_paste\_prosecco) was inspired by a follower. She sanded the frames, cleaned them with white spirit and had a primer tinted to match Farrow & Ball's Down Pipe. She applied two coats and then an eggshell topcoat in the same hue. As the work progressed, she decided to carry the same colour over the deep window ledges and onto the walls and skirting boards below. 'I'd experimented with dark, dramatic tones in the rest of the house and grown to love Down Pipe,' she explains. 'It's such a comforting colour and it's made the sunroom look lovely and warm.'

**Good idea!**

BENCHES ARE A CONVENIENT AND VERSATILE FAMILY SEATING OPTION FOR SMALL SPACES.



**Good idea!**

PAINT RADIATORS IN THE SAME SHADE AS THE WALLS SO THEY BLEND IN.



**STEP THREE** After the main work was done, Leanne had no real plans, saying the room evolved through 'instinct and impulse'. Although her love of upcycling also played a part. 'We didn't have much money growing-up, but my mum had an eye for design,' says Leanne. 'She would make a few metres of sale fabric or paint stretch to make our home look lovely.' Leanne was delighted to get her hands on a free piano she saw advertised on Facebook Marketplace and decorated it in Farrow & Ball's Yellowcote, leftover from painting Esme's wardrobe. 'Ash and the boys play instruments, but no one plays the piano, so Ash thought I was bonkers!' says Leanne. 'I love yellow and grey together and I thought a bold yellow piano would be a fun feature to brighten-up the room.'

**STEP FOUR** As well as using her DIY skills to add visual interest to the room, Leanne also made some practical pieces too, including a shelf from a scaffolding board she found in the garage. She also painted two charity shop chairs in Down Pipe and added new seat pads made from second-hand fabric. 'Very little is new - I even bought the sofa and armchair from the previous owners of my old cottage,' she says. The finished sunroom marks the end of Leanne and Ash's renovation and is a room they're very happy with. 'In summer, we love leaving the doors open, both out to the deck and into the kitchen, so the breeze flows through the house,' says Leanne. 'At this time of year, the sunroom feels like more than one space, it's easily my favourite room.'

### 3 OF THE BEST... *Textured textiles*

**£12** from Matalan

You won't be able to resist stroking this tufted pom-pom and woven stripe cushion.

**£17.50** from The Contemporary Home

Cozy up on evenings in the garden under this travelled cotton throw.

**£100** from Habitat

Add warmth, pattern and underfoot cosiness with a luxuriously fluffy wool rug.



**£100**



**£12**



**£17.50**

Leanne made the shelf from a scaffolding board and brackets bought from B&Q. The candle wine bottles are a collection that mark special occasions, such as Leanne and Ash's wedding day. A similar macramé plant hanger can be bought from Matalan.

The leather sofa came from Leanne's previous home and she fixed the Barker & Stonehouse chair, which her friend was throwing out. The stag head hanging has been in four of Leanne's previous homes. A similar hanging can be found at TeePublic.

## ROOM PLAN



## THE DETAILS

TABLE AND BENCH	£878
SECOND-HAND CHAIRS	£15
SECOND-HAND SOFA & ARMCHAIR	£150
PIANO	FREE
CUSHIONS	£50
THROWS	£42
RADIATORS	£245
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 1,380</b>

## SHOPPING LIST

Window frames prepared in Zinsser Bulls Eye 123 primer-sealer, £16.99 for 3l, Screwfix. Walls and window frames painted in paint mixed to resemble Farrow & Ball Down Pipe, £45 per 5l, Brewers. Iona solid pine 10-seater table in grey, £599, Iona extra-large bench, £279, both Made.com. Radiators, £122.50 each, KB Star on eBay. Grey herringbone throw, £19.50, Marks & Spencer. Scandi Boho blanket, £23, Soss & Belle. Yellow and grey cushion, £15, Sainsbury's. Krallig basket, £10, IKEA. 'See You Next Tuesday' print, £17, Punk Haus. Bike clock, £39.95, Elephant Monkey. For similar dining chairs, try Alston dining chairs, £99 each, Oak World. Also similar. Mix dining chair, £99, Barker & Stonehouse. For a similar sofa, try Jarrod two-seater sofa in outback tan leather, £1,299, Made.com. For a similar cushion, try Blue velvet cushion, £19, Dunelm. For similar wall hanging, try Geometric stag tapestry, £40, TeePublic. For similar hanging basket, try Similar macramé plant holder, £7, Matalan.